## Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the Matter of

SCDOI File Number 2003-119452

Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company 5832 Farm Pond Lane, Suite 400 Post Office Box 25268 Charlotte, NC 28229-5268 **Consent Order Imposing Administrative Penalty** 

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company, Charlotte, NC, an insurance producer' licensed to transact business in the State of South Carolina.

Upon review of this matter, I hereby find as fact that Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company had been utilizing the services of an unlicensed adjuster, Kent Beasley, to conduct the business of Insurance within the State of South Carolina. The Company acknowledges this and contends this failure resulted from inadvertence and oversight and not from any intent to avoid the requirements of the law. Subsequently, Kent Beasley applied for and was granted his license on 10/27/2003. Nevertheless, these actions can ultimately lead to the revocation of their license to transact the business of insurance producers/adjusters in South Carolina, following a public hearing at the Administrative Law Judge Division, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130 (Supp 2002).

Prior to the initiation of any administrative proceedings by the Department against Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company, the parties agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with their specific recommendation, for my summary decision, rather than to proceed toward a formal public hearing. The consensual recommendation was that, in lieu of the Department seeking to revoke; Hartford's certificate of authority, it would waive its right to a public hearing and immediately pay an administrative fine in the total amount of \$3,000.00.

After a thorough review of the record, carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, and pursuant to my findings of fact, I hereby conclude as a matter of law, that Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company has violated § 38-43-130 (Supp. 2002). Although I can now revoke the insurer's certificate of authority, I hereby invoke the discretionary authority provided to me by the, General Assembly within S.C. Code Ann. § 38-2-10 (2) (Supp. 2002) and impose against Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company an administrative fine in the total amount of \$3,000.00. That fine must be paid within ten days of the date of my signature upon this Consent Order. If that total fine amount is not timely paid, the insurer's certificate of authority will be revoked without any further disciplinary proceedings.

This administrative penalty has been reached by the parties as a result of negotiation and compromise, and it is made in consideration of Hartford's assurance that it will fully comply with the Insurance Laws of South Carolina in the future.

This penalty includes all expenses related to investigation of this matter as provided in § 38-13-70 of the South Carolina Code. The parties expressly agree and understand payment of the agreed-upon penalty constitutes full accord and satisfaction of this matter. By the signature of its authorized representative -upon this consent order, Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company acknowledges this administrative order as a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2002).

Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained, within this administrative order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement officer or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (4) (Supp. 2002) of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is, therefore, ordered that Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company shall, within ten days of the date of my signature on this consent order, pay through the South Carolina Department of Insurance an administrative fine in the total amount of \$3,000.00.

It is further ordered that a copy of this consent -order be immediately transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its member states.

This consent order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.

PR, GT
Ernst N. Csiszar

Director

December <u>22</u>, 2003 Columbia, South Carolina I CONSENT

Signature

Signature

Printed Name

Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company 5832 Farm Pond Lane, Suite 400 P.O. Box 25268 Charlotte, NC 28229-5268

Dated this 19th day of December, 2003.